



## **IFES Quarterly Report: January 1 – March 31, 2005**

### **Training in Detection and Enforcement (TIDE) Program**

**USAID Cooperative Agreement No. DGC-A-00-01-00004-00**

**Project Period: July 2003 – March 31, 2005 \***

**Total Budget: \$182,339.00 Expenses Recorded to Date: \$147,239**

\*no cost extension requested 4/1//2005

### **Results Summary**

During the month of February, IFES completed the TIDE manual and organized the first Training in Detection and Enforcement event, held in Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).

### **Background**

The Training in Detection and Enforcement Program is a global initiative designed to enhance detection and enforcement of political finance abuses, thereby increasing accountability. IFES works with local partners to identify and target the needs of each project country and to apply internationally accepted standards and best practices with a focus on enforcement.

The program objectives are to do the following:

- Increase the capacity of political finance regulators in such areas as investigation techniques, audit skills and money laundering detection mechanisms.
- Establish new methodologies to monitor activities such as compliance and enforcement patterns.
- Monitor, analyze and develop enforcement mechanisms to retard the impact of cross-border political finance transactions.

### **Activities**

A key component of the TIDE project is the development of a flexible tool kit that can be used to identify weaknesses in the system, reform laws and regulations, enhance or reform enforcement bodies, and exchange best practices. IFES relied heavily on the expertise of the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and New York City Campaign Finance Board (NYCCFB) - research conducted by Jeffrey Carlson and Kevin Casas at the 2004 COGEL Conference and research conducted by Drs. Michael Pinto-Duschinsky and Marcin Walecki - to develop and refine the training and resource materials and curricula for TIDE events. These documents were translated into Bosnian for the TIDE pilot event in BiH in February 2005.

In mid February IFES conducted a training session for the Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina (ECBiH). Organized and funded in cooperation with the IFES BiH - Elections Administration Strengthening program, the event was attended by members of the ECBiH, municipal judges, members of local NGOs, international members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and Office of Higher Representative (OHR), international observers from the Kosovo OSCE office, and Michael Henning, Director of the USAID BiH Democracy office and Svjetlana Derajić, Management Specialist at USAID BiH. The training was spearheaded by Ellen Weintraub, Commissioner of the FEC, Nicole Gordon, Executive Director of the NYCCFB, Joe Stoltz, FEC Director of Auditing, Laurel Shanks Council to Commissioner Weintraub, and Dr. Marcin Walecki, IFES Senior Advisor for Political Finance.

The flexibility of the toolkit was put to the test during the training. Prepared to provide an introduction to detection and enforcement, the expert team quickly changed gears when it became apparent that the Election Commission needed to address auditing. After the opening presentations on the first day, the afternoon session focused on drawing questions and comments from the participants in order to clearly assess their needs. The second day of the training focused on organization and enforcement issues. It included sessions on International Comparison of Sanctions, Audit and Investigative Techniques, and Audit Case study and Examination of forged documents. The final two days of training focused on workshops that allowed the trainers to address the specific needs of the groups – specifically focusing on audit issues.

By the conclusion of the training, the team had provided the Election Commission with an action plan for the next four months, a step chart that will allow the implementation of several audits by the new deadline, a check list for desk audit, an outline for an auditors' manual, sample audit programs, and a selection criteria for auditing. Their ability to adjust to the change in priorities and deliver well-received training is testimony to how the materials can be utilized by experienced practitioners in a changing environment. Thus, IFES was able to derive important lessons for the future through the practical application of the program.

Following the event, IFES received feedback on the TIDE pilot training that will be used to modify the training package and materials. One of the most notable lessons learned was that while training programs such as TIDE can help showcase best practices in education, disclosure, audit, investigation, administrative fines, and dispute resolution, it is difficult in the short-term to deal with issues such as poor management, conflicting personalities, and issues of political pressure and limited resources.

### **Activities Planned for Next Quarter**

IFES requested a no-cost extension to June 2005 in order to add value to the current product by: (1) taking advantage of lessons learned from the post-TIDE event follow-on visit by Joe Stoltz to Bosnia and Herzegovina (under a USAID Mission-based cooperative agreement) at the end of March; and (2) soliciting and incorporating further comments by IFES partners at the FEC and NYCCFB into the TIDE training and resource packages.